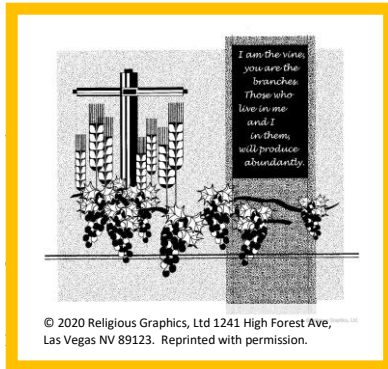


Observing the Lord's Day

Easter 5 (21B)

9 May 2021, Father Slowiak. Edited from printed and audio sources.



Bishop Callahan has distributed a diocesan policy for the gradual reopening of parishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist on Sunday. We are authorized to gather 25% of the church capacity (about 75) with members of the same household sitting together, others at social distancing. The wings of Phone to have your name added to the 25% list. We have opened the 8:00 celebration am on Sunday.

We understand face coverings/masks to be an element of prolife, a sign of respect for the common good.

We will continue to stream the Sunday 10:00 am celebration. I invite parish and families at 4:30 or 8:00 or 10:00 am (or a family time) to gather and observe the Lord's Day with the weekly Communal Prayer.

L = Leader (Certainly rotate within a family and the role of the Leader); A = Assembly

Opening Rite

L Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;

A proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alle-lu-ia. Isaiah 48:20

L In the name of . . .

A the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L God creator of all that is visible to us and beyond our vision, the crown of Your creation is the Son, born of a woman, but without beginning; he suffered for us but lives forever. He is Lord forever and ever. Amen. – based on Sacramentary, 1985

The Texts

Our Bibles or the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://uscgb.org> then, Bible, Today's Reading for the texts

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31. Saul (in Greek, Paul) has encountered Christ Jesus on the way to Damascus and after preaching Jesus was forced to flee and returned to Jerusalem to join the community there but the members were suspicious until Barnabas received Saul.

First Letter of John. 3:18-24. Scholars are not in common regarding the writer or the community. It seems the letter is an instruction or written to remind a community that to live the love/concern of God revealed by Jesus is then to remain or abide on God and God in us.

John 15:1-8. John uses a metaphor (the vine and the dresser) for what it means to abide or remain in the risen Christ Jesus . . . there is communion but communion requires personal responsibility and commitment to support the community.

A Reflection

The best way to overcome the opponents of Christ Jesus today is not through words or apologies or logical arguments, but by being living examples of Jesus's love, compassion and concern for others. There have been and are 'believers' who want to pick and choose the word and example of God that is convenient. We cannot afford to be partial disciples. What image of Jesus does a partial disciple give? Consider that our love, compassion and concern will never match that lived by Jesus, the Son of God, yet no matter how imperfect, we are in God's presence. It is this knowledge of God sticking with us that reveals that we are doing as of the design of God. –based on a homily by Deacon Charles O'Donnell, 1983.

General Intercessions

L In the name of Jesus with is the Christ, we pray.

01. Keep the Church united and move us to accept Your guidance that we never let us be parted from you. We pray.
02. Fill the nations with justice and guide them in their concern for others. We pray.
03. Grant healing to the sick and relief to those who are afflicted. We pray.
04. Preserve the newly baptized in Your embrace, and grace us all to proclaim the good news. We pray.

L God, as we experience the resurrection of the Son. Grant us a favorable hearing through Christ our Lord.

Sitting at the Table with Christ Jesus (A spiritual communion)

L Lord Jesus the Christ, who in Your resurrection trampled down death and triumphed over evil in all of its forms giving birth to Your Church and opening to all the doors of the Kingdom, strengthen us in our various ministries that in serving You we reverence You and that in obeying You we might witness to the world that You are Lord, that You will reign, and that You will triumph forever.

Give us the wisdom to know Your way. Give us the courage to follow Your way. Give us the grace to be content in Your way. Amen.

L If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord.

A The Father will send you the holy Spirit, to be with you for-ever, alle-lu-ia. -John 14:15-16

Closing

L Almighty God, You restored us to life by raising Jesus from death and He lives as the Christ. Deepen our friendship with You in the celebration of this sacrament. We pray through Christ our Lord. – based on Sacramentary, 1985

L In the name of the Father . . .